

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6254

BILL NUMBER: SB 83

NOTE PREPARED: Nov 11, 2004

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Eligibility for Admission to Veterans' Home.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Craycraft

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
X FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill decreases from three years to one year the time a person must be an Indiana resident before applying for admission to the Veterans' Home.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Under current law, a destitute or disabled person may be admitted to the Veterans' Home if they were honorably discharged, have lived in Indiana for at least the preceding three years, and are either (1) a veteran or nurse with war-time service or (2) a veteran or nurse with a service-connected disability who served in an authorized campaign. This bill would change the three-year residency requirement to one year.

According to the Superintendent of the Veterans' Home, there would likely be no additional expenditures for the facility if the residency requirement were decreased. The residency requirement was previously changed from five years to three years. No apparent increase in residents or expenditures was seen as a result. In addition, a waiver is currently available to grant admission to veterans with only one year of Indiana residency. Although the actual number of new residents prompted by the change in residency requirements contained in this bill is unknown, it is thought to be minimal because the waiver is currently available.

Background Information: Currently, 354 individuals reside at the Veterans' Home. The cost per resident is about \$184 per day. On average, about 50% (\$92) is paid by the state, 25% (\$46) is paid by the U.S. Veterans' Administration, and 25% (\$46) comes from resident resources. State funding for the Veterans' Home comes from the state General Fund and the Veterans' Home Comfort and Welfare Fund.

According to the Indiana State Department of Health, the Veterans' Home is licensed for 455 residents and currently has a census of 354. The Home currently has sufficient staff and facilities for up to 365 persons. Based on the aging of the veterans who served during World War II, the Department estimated that the Home would face an increased demand, under current residency requirements, beginning in two or three years, with the peak demand occurring some time around 2010.

The Department indicated that with current resources for 365 residents, it is not optimizing costs at an occupancy level of 354 because of the fixed costs incurred in operating the Veterans' Home. Increasing the number of residents to 365 would lower the cost per resident. An increase to 365 residents would also maximize the Home's reimbursement from the United States Veterans Administration. If the number of residents increased above 365, the overall cost of running the Veterans' Home would increase.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Veterans' Home, State Department of Health.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Robert Hawkins, Superintendent, Indiana Veterans' Home, 765-463-1502.

Fiscal Analyst: Sarah Brooks, 317-232-9559.